

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6440
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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EO 11652: QNAGF: SNAR
SUBJECT: LARGE NARCOTICS SEIZURE BY THAI POLICE

1. THAI POLICE THE EVENING OF JUNE 16 RAIDED A RESTAURANT IN THE DOCK AREA OF PAKNAM, SAMUT PRAKAN PROVINCE, NEAR BANGKOK AND SEIZED 238 KILOGRAMS (OPIUM EQUIVALENT OF 1638.7 KILOGRAMS) NO. 3 HEROIN, MORPHINE BASE, PREPARED OPIUM, AND RAW OPIUM. THE HAUL WAS BROKEN DOWN AS FOLLOWS: 104 PACKAGES OF HEROIN NO. 3 WEIGHING 97.3 KGS. (OPIUM EQUIVALENT OF 973.2 KGS), 36 BLOCKS OF MORPHINE BASE WEIGHING 58.1 KGS (OPIUM EQUIVALENT OF 581.4 KGS), 60 PACKAGES OF COOKED OPIUM WEIGHING 79.6 KGS, AND 4.5 KGS OF RAW OPIUM. DEA REPORTS THAT FIRM INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION INDICATES THAT THE 58 KGS OR MORPHINE BASE WAS INTENDED FOR PROCESSING INTO HEROIN NO. 4 IN HONG KONG FOR ULTIMATE TRANSHIPMENT TO THE USA. IT WAS ONE OF THE LARGEST SEIZURES IN RECENT MEMORY, AND THE TOTAL VALUE OF THE DRUGS ON THE LOCAL MARKET IS ESTIMATED AT 7 MILLION BAHT (US\$350,000).

2. ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL PRESS, THAI POLICE ACTED ON INFORMATION FROM HONG KONG DRUG SUPPRESSION OFFICIALS
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THAT LARGE AMOUNTS OF THE ABOVE DRUG WERE BEING DELIVERED TO HONG KONG IN SMALL FISHING BOATS FROM PORTS AROUND THE GULF COAST. THE RAID WAS THE CULMINATION OF A MONTH-LONG INVESTIGATION BY THE THAI NATIONAL POLICE IN COOPERATION WITH DEA. ARRESTED AT THE SCENE WERE SIAM CHUA SAE LIM, NG PANG CHONG, AND PAIROTE ADISONPORNTIP. SAE LIM IS A TRAWLER OWNER/

OPERATOR AND REPORTEDLY A MAN OF SOME INFLUENCE IN
SAMUT PRAKAN; NG IS AN ETHNIC CHINESE THAI RESIDENT
WHO HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A FINANCIER AND GO-BETWEEN
FOR HONG KONG/THAI NARCOTICS SYNDICATES; PAIROTE
(PAIROJ) IS AN ETHNIC CHINESE THAI NATIONAL WHO CLAIMS
TO BE THE MANAGER OF A CAR RENTAL CONCERN AND IS
BELIEVED TO BE THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOURCE OF
SUPPLY FOR THE NARCOTICS.
O'DONOHUE

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